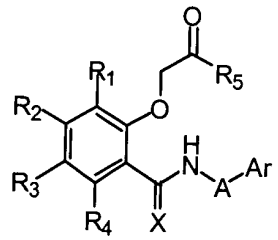
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended) A compound of the formula:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

A is a covalent bond, C_1-C_4 alkylene group optionally substituted with C_1-C_2 alkyl or mono- or disubstituted with halogen, preferably fluoro or chloro;

X is oxygen, sulfur or NR_6, wherein each R_6 is hydrogen, cyano or an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens);

R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are each independently

hydrogen, halogen, or nitro, or an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more halogens;

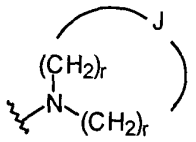
OR_7, SR_7, $S(O)R_7$, $S(O)_2R_7$, $C(O)N(R_7)_2$, or $N(R_7)_2$, wherein each R_7 is independently hydrogen, an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens) or benzyl, where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups

independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino;

phenyl or heteroaryl each of which phenyl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino;

phenoxy where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino; or

a group of the formula



where

J is a bond, CH_2, oxygen, or nitrogen; and

each r is independently 2 or 3;

R_5 is hydroxy, ~~or a prodrug group~~ C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or $-O^-M^+$ where M^+ is a cation forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; and

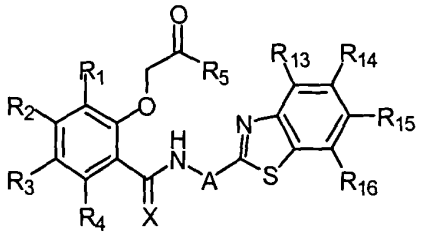
Ar represents ~~aryl or heteroaryl~~ benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, isoquinolyl, benzothiophen-yl, benzofuran-yl or benzimidazolyl, or substituted oxadiazolyl or indolyl, each of which is optionally substituted with up to five groups.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is a covalent bond or CH_2; R_5 is hydroxy; and each of R_1-R_4 are independently hydrogen, halogen, more preferably bromo, chloro or fluoro, C_1-C_2 alkyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, or C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claims 4-17 (cancelled).

Claim 18. (original) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein

A is a covalent bond, C_1-C_4 alkylene group optionally substituted with C_1-C_2 alkyl;

X is oxygen, sulfur or NR_6, wherein each R_6 is hydrogen, cyano or an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens);

R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are each independently

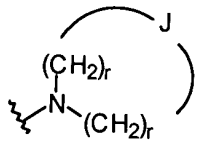
hydrogen, halogen, an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens), nitro, OR_7, SR_7, $S(O)R_7$, $S(O)_2NR_7$ $C(O)N(R_7)_2$ or $N(R_7)_2$, wherein each R_7 is independently hydrogen, an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more

halogens) or benzyl, where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino;

phenyl or heteroaryl such as 2-, 3- or 4-imidazolyl or 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, each of which phenyl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino;

phenoxy where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino; or

a group of the formula



where

J is a bond, CH_2, oxygen, or nitrogen; and

each r is independently 2 or 3;

R_5 is hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or $-O^-M^+$ where M^+ is a cation forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; and

R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{15} and R_{16} are independently hydrogen, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylsulfinyl, or C_1-C_6 alkylsulfonyl.

Claim 19. (original) A compound according to claim 18, wherein R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{15} and R_{16}, in combination, represent one of bromo, cyano or nitro, one or two of fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or trifluoromethyl, or two fluoro or two methyl with one hydroxy or one (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or two fluoro and one methyl, or three fluoro groups.

Claim 20. (original) A compound according to claim 18, wherein R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{15} and R_{16} independently represent fluorine, chlorine, nitro, and trifluoromethyl.

Claim 21. (original) A compound according to claim 19, wherein A is methylene, methylene substituted with a methyl group, or ethylene.

Claim 22. (original) A compound according to claim 21, wherein R_{13}, R_{14}, R_{15} and R_{16} independently represent nitro, one, two, or three of fluoro, one or two of chloro, or one trifluoromethyl group.

Claim 23. (original) A compound according to claim 22, wherein A is methylene, and R_5 is hydroxy or C_1-C_6 alkoxy.

Claim 24. (original) A compound according to claim 23, wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono or di(C_1-C_3 alkyl)amino, morpholinyl, piperidin-1-yl, or piperazin-1-yl.

Claim 25. (original) A compound according to claim 24, wherein R_{13}, R_{14} and R_{16} are fluorines and R_{15} is hydrogen.

Claim 26. (original) A compound according to claim 18, wherein R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, C_1-C_2 alkyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, mono or di(C_1-C_3 alkyl)amino, morpholinyl, piperidin-1-yl, or piperazin-1-yl.

Claim 27. (original) A compound according to claim 26, wherein R_8-R_{12} represent one trifluoroacetyl or trifluoromethylthio, or one or two of fluoro chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethylthio, or one or, preferably, two fluoro and one trifluoromethyl, or two fluoro or two trifluoromethyl with one methoxy, or three fluoro.

Claim 28. (original) A compound according to claim 27, wherein R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, C_1-C_2 alkyl,

phenoxy, benzyloxy, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, mono or di(C_1-C_3 alkyl)amino, morpholinyl, piperidin-1-yl, or piperazin-1-yl.

Claim 29. (original) A compound according to claim 28, wherein both R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen or C_1-C_3 alkyl.

Claim 30. (original) A compound according to claim 29, wherein at least one of R_2 and R_3 is hydrogen, and both R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen.
which is selected from:

Claims 31-38 (cancelled).

Claim 39 (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, which is

~~[4-Bromo-5-fluoro-2-(3-nitro-benzylcarbamoyl)-phenoxy]-acetic acid;~~

~~[5-(3-Nitro-benzylcarbamoyl)-2-fluoro-biphenyl-4-yloxy]-acetic acid;~~

~~[5-(3-Nitro-benzylthiocarbamoyl)-2-fluoro-biphenyl-4-yloxy]-acetic acid;~~

~~[2-(3-Nitro-benzylcarbamoyl)-4-cyano-5-fluoro-phenoxy]-~~

~~acetic acid;~~

~~[2-(3-Nitro-benzylcarbamoyl)-5-fluoro-4-morpholin-4-yl-phenoxy]-acetic acid;~~

~~[2-(4-Bromo-2-fluoro-benzylcarbamoyl)-5-fluoro-4-morpholin-4-yl-phenoxy]-acetic acid ethyl ester;~~

{5-Fluoro-2[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid; ~~or~~

{5-Fluoro-2[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester ;

{5-Fluoro-2-[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-thiocarbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid;

{5-Fluoro-2-[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-thiocarbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester;

{5-Fluoro-2-[(5-trifluoromethyl-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid; or

{5-Chloro-2-[(5-trifluoromethyl-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid.

Claims 40-41 (cancelled).

Claim 42. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an predetermined amount of a compound according to claim 1.

Claims 43-45 (cancelled).

Claim 46. (original) A method for treating diabetic complications comprising administering to a patient suffering from such complications an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1.

Claims 47-48 (cancelled).

Claim 49 (original) A method for the treatment or prevention of the development of disease conditions associated with impaired neuronal conduction velocity comprising administering to a patient suffering from or prone to develop such complications an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1.

Claim 50 (original) A method for the treatment or prevention of diabetic neuropathy comprising administering to a patient

suffering from or prone to develop such complications an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1.

Claims 51-53 (Cancelled)